

(b) whether valuable timber, crocodile, rare red corals are taken away by the foreign infiltrators;

(c) if so, the number of boats/ships alongwith persons apprehended, nationality-wise and the date of such encounters; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Wildlife authorities of Andaman and Nicobar Islands have reported that although boats and ships of foreign origin alongwith foreign nationals have been apprehended sporadically, they are not known to indulge in poaching nor have any timber, crocodiles or rare red corals been recovered from them.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Forest and Wildlife authorities are taking the help of the Coast Guards, Navy and Local Police to curb the foreign intruders.

[Translation]

Research in Agriculture Field

3218. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the efforts being made by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to develop new hybrid seeds of oilseeds and pulses; and

(b) the details of specific achievements made by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to develop new hybrid seeds of oilseeds and pulses; and

(b) the details of specific achievements made by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in the field of agriculture during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Success has been achieved in developing hybrids in pigeonpea (arhar) in the last five years. Two short duration hybrids namely COH-1 for Tamil Nadu and PPH 4 for Punjab have been released for cultivation. Efforts are underway to develop hybrids in medium and long duration pigeonpea also.

In respect of oilseed, improved hybrids have been developed in Sunflower (KBSH-1, PKVSH-17, APSH-17, PSFH-67, TNAUSUF-7) Castor (DCH-30, SBH-145, GAUCH-4) and Gobhi Sarson (GSLH-51).

Besides hybrids 45 high yielding varieties of pulses and 60 varieties of oilseeds combining resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses have been developed in different part of the country during the last five years

and released for cultivation. They include 10 in pigeonp, 12 in chickpea, 13 in mung and urbean; 13 in groundnut 9 in Brassica, 10 in sesame and 10 in soybean etc.

(b) **Rice and Wheat** - A wide choice of varieties well adapted to different rainfed ecologies and five hybrids for irrigated ecology for the first time have been developed. The improved rainfed rice varieties yield 40 to 50% higher than the local varieties while the hybrids yield one tonne more per hectare than the best varieties. Hybrid rice areas has increased to 5,0000 ha, this year. In the case of wheat rust susceptible varieties like HD 2329 and HD 2385 have been replaced by UP 2338 in the North West Plain Zone and Sonalika susceptible to their diseases by Sonali etc.

Course Cereal - In case of millets, despite sharp decline in area there has been steady production advance attributable to impressive productivity growth which in turn are due to high yielding hybrids such as CSH 113R, CSH 14, CSA 15R in Sorghum.

Pulses - The emphasis has been to breed short duration varieities and hybrids in Arhar, multiple disease resistance in chickpea, green gram, black gram, peas the lentil. Increased adoption of improved varieties has contributed considerably to the impressive production advances by one million tonnes and productivity to 601 kg. from 555 kg/ha during the last five years.

Oilseed - Spectacular progress has been made in the oilseed production during last five years. The soybean production has gone up to 4.0 mt. in 1994-95 from 2.0 mt. recorded in 1990-91. This has enabled the country to earn Rs. 15,000 m. in 1993-94 in foreign exchange through export of oil meal and has stablized the oilseed production in the country.

Commercial hybrids have been made available in pigeonpea, sunflower, rabimaize, rabi sorghum, castor, gobhi-sarson, tomato, cabbage and cotton.

[English]

Rare Quail

3219. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Rare Quail sighted in Uttar Pradesh hills", appearing in the *Sunday Times of India* dated June 6, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken for the protection and conservation of this rare species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.